BCCI is spent on world class infrastructure facilities for the game of cricket and on grooming of players with highest-level of fitness?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Government have taken note of the dismal performance of the Indian cricket team in the Cricket World Cup. Government also took up the matter with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), who have informed Government that the team did not perfom to its full potential and has held the Team collectively responsible for its poor performance. The BCCI has deliberated on the matter and also obtained the suggestions of former captains of the Indian Cricket Team. Based on the inputs received, the BCCI say they are taking the necessary steps to improve the preparation of the Indian Cricket Team for participation in major events, including intensive training inputs in different aspects of the game; norms in terms of minimum level of participation in domestic competitions; encouraging young potential players etc. It has further been reported by the BCCI that there is no controversy any more regarding the foreign coach, Mr. Greg Chappell, who has finished his term.

(c) BCCI have reported that through its affiliated units in ensuring that a major share of income generated is utilized for the promotion and development of cricket from the grassroots level. All these state units have been advised to:

(i) Upgrade the infrastructure facilities in stadia;

(ii) Set up playing grounds with basic amenities;

(iii) Support cricket at grassroots level, particularly school cricket;

(iv) Start State cricket academies;

(v) Prepare lively and sporting wickets.

Special package for Orissa

†*615. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether maximum number of people living below poverty line live in Orissa and whether Orissa would be called the poorest State from this point of view;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has any specific scheme for improvement of the economic condition of the poor people of the said State; and

(c) whether the State Government has asked for any special economic package from the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. The maximum number of people living below poverty line live in Uttar Pradesh (590.03 lakh). In Orissa 178.49 lakh persons live below the poverty line as estimated from Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution of NSS 61st Round (2004-05) survey data on household consumer expenditure conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). This forms 46.4% of the population of Orissa, which is the highest percentage of pupulation below povery line among all the states of the India.

(b) Special attention has been focused on the development of the backward regions/districts of Orissa through the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana which has now been replaced by the Backward Regions Grant Fund. Under this programme, funding is provided on 100% grant basis to the Special Plan for the KBK districts and identified backward districts. During the Eleventh Plan, the allocation for the KBK districts will continue at Rs. 250 crore per annum. Further, while the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana covered only 5 districts in Orissa, the district component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund covers 19 districts fo the State (including the KBK districts). Further, the coverage fo districts under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been expanded and 24 districts of Orissa will be now covered. The other major programme for poverty alleviation, namely, Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), etc. are being implemented for improvement of the economic condition of the rural poor in the State.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Orissa *vide* his letter dated 22.7.2004 had requested for a Special Economic Package for the State.